Pension cover to unorganised workers

*309. SHRI ABANI ROY :

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch a social security number system in a bid to widen pension cover mainly to include workers in the unorganised sector such as contract labour, self-employed and private servicemen ;

(b) if so, whether the blue print for the system has been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be launched;

(d) to what extent workers in the country are likely to be benefited by this social security system; and

(e) in what manner the expenditure is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The Employee's Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the provisions of the Employee's Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is already applicable to 180 Industries/Classes of establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Scheme does not make any discrimination between organised and unorganised sectors. Possibilities are being explored by the Government for extending pension coverage to other groups who are presently not covered.

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojna 2001 has been launched from July, 2001. The Scheme is to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back and superannuation benefits. The scheme is expected to cover around 10 lakh agricultural workers in 50 selected districts in the country over a span of 3 years.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was asked to provide a road map for pension reforms for the unorganised sector. IRDA's report has since been received and is being considered by the Government. The Second National Commission on Labour has also been given a mandate to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.